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SLAIN TEACHER IS REMEMBERED

Friends Recall Peaceful, Softspoken Man

By BOB USSERY

His friends remembered him as a peaceful man who seldom raised his voice.

None would have expected Henry M. Delaune, an English teacher at Thibodaux's Nicholls State College, to meet a violent death.

But his nude body, its chest punctured by two bullet wounds, was found in the apartment building at 828 Burgundy, which he owned and where he lived.

By Monday afternoon homicide detectives had questioned many persons, but still had no suspects.

One of those questioned was a tall, blond youth, who had been booked as a Marine Corps deserter, turned over to police by armed forces police the same afternoon.

Capt. Anthony Polito, homicide commander, said his office was satisfied that the man had no connection with the case.

BODY IN DOORWAY

Delaune's body was found in the doorway of his own ground-floor apartment at the Burgundy st. address shortly before 12:50 a. m. Sunday.

Police said officers were called some hours earlier when shots were heard, but that access to Delaune's apartment was impossible.

The body was found when a resident living in the same area of the building returned from a trip and unlocked that part of the structure.

A 41-year-old native of Lockport, La., Delaune was formerly head of the English Department at Xavier University. He lived in New Orleans the past 25 years, but only recently bought the Burgundy st. property, police said.

Delaune was a brother of Jules Delaune, an employe of the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office, and of Mrs. Nicholas J. Chetta, wife of the late coroner.

Relatives said he once worked as a clerk in the coroner's office during the time he taught at Xavier, from 1956 to 1966.

HENRY M. DELAUNE

OTHER SURVIVORS

Other survivors include his mother, Mrs. Josephine Claudet Delaune; three brothers, Alvin, Sidney J. and Alfred Delaune; four sisters, Mrs. J. Henry Coates, Mrs. Gordon J. Landry, Mrs. Jules H. Clement, and Miss Myrtle Delaune.

Funeral services were conducted at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans blvd., and included a Requiem Mass in the chapel.

Interment was in Hope Mausoleum.

Friends at Xavier recalled how Delaune often talked about a biography of Samuel Johnson.

"It was rather a strange contrast for a man so gentle and mild-mannered as Delaune to want to write the life story of a man who was anything but mild-mannered, a rough hot-tempered person, to say the least," said one acquaintance.

"But Johnson fascinated him and he often talked about writing a good account of Johnson's career."

RECEIVES GRANT

Delaune was one of 23 persons in the South selected for a grant under the United Negro College Fund's faculty fellowship fund. The grant was to allow Delaune to continue his studies toward his doctorate in 18th century English at Tulane University.

"It is hard to reconcile Delaune's violent end with his peaceful life. He was the kind of man who seldom raised his voice. He seldom went in for strong opinions," another friend said.

Another said that Delaune earned his Ph.D. at Tulane, and his B.A. at Rice University.

"Formerly he taught at the Citadel in South Carolina and had been in the Navy.

"He liked to travel, but one of his main hobbies was the refinishing of furniture and the collection of antiques. He liked to take an ordinary piece of furniture and turn it into a work of art.

"Another hobby was playing tennis.

"He was very much in love with New Orleans."